

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims without prejudice, such that this listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1 (original). An apparatus adapted to generate contract documents, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of computing platforms;

a plurality of memory storage devices coupled to the computing platforms, the plurality of memory devices comprising a first memory storage device storing a database of items, a second memory storage device storing rules corresponding to each item, a third memory storage device storing rules corresponding to each requester, a fourth memory storage device storing a database of generated documents, and a secure memory storage device; a plurality of networks coupled to the plurality of computing platforms, the computing platforms capable of receiving and transmitting requests for the items by requesters via the plurality of networks, the computing platforms being programmed to:

(a) process requests of items by at least one requester by;

(1) determining if at least one of the items requested is stored in the first memory storage device;

(2) retrieving rules corresponding to the at least one requestor stored in the third memory storage device;

(3) retrieving from the second memory storage device rules relating to the requested items;

(4) generating a document based on relationships between a first set of retrieved rules corresponding to the at least one requester and a second set of retrieved rules corresponding to the requested items;

(b) display the document on a graphical user interface;

(c) transmit the document to the at least one requestor over the plurality of networks;

(d) permit the requestor to modify the document and transmit the modified document to the computing platforms;

(e) store the modified document in the secure storage device;

(f) deliver the modified document to at least one human operator for review;
and

(g) permit the operator to modify data and the rules in the first, second, and third memory devices.

2 (original). The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the items in the first memory storage device define products.

3 (original). The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rules in the second memory storage device define legally binding rules regarding each of the items stored in the first memory storage device.

4 (original). The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rules in the third memory storage device define preferences of each requestor.

5 (original). The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the secure memory storage device stores the items of the first memory storage device and the rules of the second and third memory storage devices.

6 (original). The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of networks includes a public network.

7 (original). The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the computing platforms are further programmed to deliver the modified document to the at least one human operator for review via the public network.

8 (original). The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the computing platforms are further programmed to determine if the rules stored in the second memory storage device are valid.

9 (original). The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the computing platforms are further programmed to determine if the rules stored in the third memory storage device are valid.

10 (original). The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the computing platforms are further programmed to process the requests of the items by the at least one requestor by determining if the requestor is authorized to access any one of the plurality of memory storage devices.

11 (original). The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the computing platforms are further programmed to deny access to the plurality of memory storage devices to an unauthorized operator.

12 (currently amended). A method to generate contract documents, the method comprising:

providing at least three databases and a maintenance engine for at least one of the databases;

providing a user an option to select at least a first product and a second product;

receiving a selection of at least said first product and not said second product;

generating at least one document as a function of relationships between the at least three databases, said relationships comprising at least an association between said first product and first standard text and an association between said second product and second standard text, and said generated document incorporating said first standard text and not said second standard text, all of the text of said generated document being generated based on said relationships;

providing the document for review by at least one of a customer, a salesperson, and a legal specialist;

storing the reviewed document in a protected format; and submitting the document to at least one customer.

13 (currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 12, the method further comprising:

determining if at least one of a plurality of items requested by the salesperson is stored in one of the at least three databases;

retrieving rules corresponding to the at least one customer stored in one of the at least three databases; and

retrieving rules relating to the requested items stored in one of the at least three databases,

said steps of determining, retrieving rules corresponding to the at least one customer and of retrieving rules relating to the requested items being performed prior to said step of generating the requested document.

14 (currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 13, the method further comprising:

determining if the rules corresponding to the at least one customer are valid;
and

determining if the rules relating to the requested items are valid,

if the rules corresponding to the at least one customer are determined to be valid, said validated customer rules being included in said relationships based on which said text is generated, and if the rules relating to the requested items are determined to be valid, said validated requested item rules being included in said relationships based on which said text is generated.

15 (original). The method as claimed in claim 12, the method further comprising:

displaying the document on a graphical user interface;

transmitting the document to the at least one of the customer, the salesperson, and the legal specialist over a plurality of networks to a plurality of computing platforms;

permitting the at least one of the customer, the salesperson, and the legal specialist to modify the document and transmit the modified document over the plurality of networks to the plurality of computing platforms;

storing the modified document in a secure storage device;

delivering the modified document to at least one human operator for review;

and

permitting the operator to modify data, the rules corresponding to the plurality of customers, and the rules relating to the requested items.

16 (original). The method as claimed in claim 15, the method further comprising:
determining if the customer is authorized to revise the modified document.

17 (original). The method as claimed in claim 12, the method further comprising: notifying the salesperson that the document is being generated.

18 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the step of permitting the at least one of the customer, the salesperson, and the legal specialist to modify the document comprises permitting the at least one of the customer, the salesperson, and the legal specialist to modify any portion of the document.

19 (canceled).

20 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said step of permitting the operator to modify data, the rules corresponding to the plurality of customers, and the rules relating to the requested items, comprises permitting the operator to modify standard text and to associate one or more of the requested items with the modified standard text.